

Our Example

The accounts which come from our new colonies to the effect that all sorts of vice, particularly drunkenness and licentiousness, are illustrated by our soldiers to an extent never before seen by the natives, ought to make every true Christian in this country hang his head in shame. The pity of it all is, that the soldiers are not representative of the civilization which we have set out to carry to the Philippines. The riot and licence of their conduct in Manilla does not set forth a just picture of the moral status of the American people, but at the same time the Fillippinos judge us by these lewd fellows who wear the American uniform. What strange delusion is this, that men who make war their profession are or can be civilizers in any sense at all. In the last issue of the Independent the celebrated Count Tolstoi of Russia, the great author and philanthropist, tells the world very plainly that people who wear military uniforms, their captains, colonels, generals, kings and emperors, are murderers. If we think that this is a radical utterance, let us try to imagine what attitude Christ would assume toward these people, what opinion He would express in reference to their business, if He were now upon earth. Would He call them civilizers, fore-runners of the Gospel? It may be true that He uttered no explicit opinion, or set forth no categorical statement, in regard to the soldier's profession, other than this, that "he that taketh the sword shall perish by the sword." He said that much, and it doesn't sound like a justification of the war business, either. It sounds very much like an unconditional condemnation. When the soldiers asked John the Baptist what they must do to work God's will, he told them among other things to "do violence to no man." If our armies would obey this command, their business would be entirely unobjectionable, even from our standpoint. We are perfectly willing that war should be waged on that basis. The news which comes concerning the moral conduct of our soldiers in Manilla is horrible. So far are they from making a favorable impression on the natives, that every day they become more and more objects of disgust, aversion and hatred. What word has American Christianity to say concerning this lamentable condition of things?

Strikers

The great anthracite strike recently inaugurated in Pennsylvania suggests afresh the difficult controversy between labor and capital. It is a pathetic struggle, especially on the part of the workers and their families, for it means suffering and want to thousands of innocent women and children. Capital can better afford to be idle than labor. To the latter, out of work means out of bread, whereas the capitalist loses, at the worst,

only the profit on his investment. The owners of the mines need not subtract from their luxuries, no matter how long the strike drags on. The poor laborer goes hungry in a week. Under these conditions men are not likely to strike unless they are goaded on by palpable injustice. It takes more than a mere whim to make a man risk the bread of his children. How can this troublesome question be settled? The ablest statesmanship, the profoundest political economy, the most earnest study of sociology, has not yet been able to evolve a solution. If once the spirit of Christ were in full influence, both in the hearts of the laboring masses and the money classes, the problem would settle itself. The one would then do unto the other as they would wish to be done by. The golden rule would prevail and after all is said, the golden rule is the only solution of the vexing controversies between man and man. But while so many are not amenable to the golden rule, it is manifest that to prevent injustice, there must be the efficient intervention of the civil law. New Zealand is trying compulsory arbitration, and there doesn't appear to be any good reason why it should not be made compulsory. The minimum wage works against the weak and the old who are turned out to beg. Men will not pay more for labor than they can get out of it. Our sympathies are with the men who toil patiently all the day long and every day for just enough to provide the plainest necessities. It is strange that they do not turn to Christ for the unspeakable comfort of his salvation,—that they do not come to him en-masse—for having little prospect in this world but grinding toil, it would seem that they would seek the world to come with all the more earnestness, that world which is revealed to us as the blessed place of everlasting rest.

Meetings in the Philadelphia Church

Brethren L. S. Bauman and I. D. Bowman are conducting a series of meetings in the Philadelphia church, and judging from the titles of the sermons announced they are at work both earnestly and fearlessly. Following are the subjects announced as given on an invitation circular, a copy of which has been sent us:

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OCT. 2 TO 21

- 2 Two Lives! Two Deaths! Two Eternities! Luke 16:19-31.
- 3 The Gates of Hell, Matt. 16:18.
- 4 Saved by Grace, Gal. 2:21.
- 5 Bed too Short, Cover too Narrow, Isa. 28:20.
- 7 The Greatest of Battles, Gal. 5:17.
- 7 Counting the Cost, Luke 14:28.
- 8 The Story of the Ages, Philemon 18.
- 9 Answering Excuses, John 21:22.
- 10 Fire! Fire!! Fire!!! Jude 23.
- 11 Is There Another Chance? Luke 16:26.
- 12 The Second Coming of Christ, Acts 1:11.
- 14 Is Feet Washing a Church Ordinance? John 13:14.

- 14 How Shall I Be baptized? Matt. 28:18, 19.
- 15 The Lord's Supper, Matt. 26:26.
- 16 The Unpardonable Sin, Mark 3:28, 29.
- 17 Philadelphia or Sodom—which? Matt. 11:24.
- 18 The Great Decision, Matt. 27:22.
- 19 Into Judgment, Eccl. 11:9.
- 21 The Last Days, II Tim. 3:1.
- 21 The Final Plea, Deut. 30:19.

Brief Notes

Cleveland, O., has been disgraced by the formation of what is called "The have been and are to be society." It is a club to encourage divorce and the funds are used to assist in pending suits and for prizes for the judges granting the most divorces. Words fail us to express our contempt for the *things* that will organize a society with such an object. They ought to go to the wilds of Africa and live with the beasts. Yet beasts are too good company for such. The marriage bond is the most sacred of life and he who seeks in any way to belittle or destroy it is a traitor to God and man, a blot on the face of the earth.

As the political campaign waxes warm sensational things occur. In Colorado Gov. Roosevelt was stoned and in Indiana two prohibition speakers, one of them a Brethren preacher, were assaulted with eggs and tomatoes. The missiles thrown in such cases are veritable boomerangs which come back to smite down the thrower. The cause attacked is advertised and sympathy aroused for it while the ruffians who resort to such methods bring their own party into contempt.

In line with the above is the shameful action of the mobs in Mansfield, O., which have been maltreating the elders of the Christian Catholic church who have attempted to preach there. A number have been tarred and feathered or varnished and sent out of town. However insulting the language of the elders may have been, however great an impostor Dr. Dowie may be, there can be no excuse for such action in a land of courts and juries and public officers for the protection of people. This is a land of free speech and no "boxer" methods should be tolerated.

A Sunday-school teacher not long ago was telling the story of the boy Jesus becoming separated from his parents, and the more vividly to impress on the youthful minds the grief of the alarmed parents she asked the question: "What would you have done, John, if your little brother had become separated from your side in a strange city?" "Go right to city hall," was the quick rejoinder. The teacher waived discussion and the lesson proceeded. Many parents in our towns and cities would not think of going to the house of God in search of their boy if he were lost. Home training has everything to do with a boy's tastes and affections.

Dancing as an auxiliary in church work prospers in Brooklyn, at least. It will be remembered that the experiment of starting a dancing class in connection with the First Congregational church evoked comment and criticism all over the country. Even from Southern California and Florida letters denouncing such a move were received. Yet the dancing class began its third season Monday evening, and there are more applicants than ever before. If the church were turned into a club house, a dancing hall, or a gambling room, many more would patronize and support it. It is a sad state of affairs, and one cannot help but think that the preaching of the plain gospel of the Nazarene would do away with the necessity of such inducements as the dancing class.

The New Voice has a special correspondent at Manila who is sending the most shocking reports of the moral conditions there. It seems that along with the drunkenness in connection with the canteen there is a traffic in immorality which is sickening. Of the 100,000 soldiers there 60,000 have